

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical device (1) for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type using an inflated body cavity (2) accessible to a surgeon through an access port, defined by the device (1), surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device (1) having:

body cavity engagement means (5) for insertion into the incision to locate the device (1) in position;

fixing means (10) ~~(6)~~ for attaching the device to a patient's skin, the fixing means including a proximal ring (6);

a sleeve (4) ~~connectable~~ connected between the body cavity engagement means and the fixing means, wherein the sleeve is adjustable by the positioning of the proximal ring so that the positioning of the proximal ring retracts the sleeve to cause the sleeve to apply outward pressure against the patient's body to retract the incision to define an access port and create a seal between the incision and sleeve; and

sealing means, at least one of mounted on the sleeve and operating on the sleeve, to prevent substantial leakage of gas from the body cavity on inflation when in an inoperative position and formed to mould about a substantial portion of a surgeon's hand or surgical instrument on insertion in an operating position.

2. (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 1 in which the body cavity engagement means (5) is provided by a distal ring (5) formed for insertion into the incision.

3. (Currently Amended) The surgical device of claim 2, in which the sealing means includes a distal ring ~~has an associated~~ self-sealing valve mounted on the sleeve.

4. (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 1, further including a connector ring (7) mounted adjacent said proximal ring.

5.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 2, in which the fixing means (6) incorporates adjustment means for modifying the length of the sleeve, so as to ensure that the fixing means (6) and the distal ring (5) may be brought into close contact with the abdominal wall ensuring a good seal is maintained and that the device (1) is firmly mounted in position.

8. (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 1, in which the sleeve is made of an elastomer material, whereby insertion of the distal ring into an incision stretches the elastomer material causing tension between the distal ring and proximal ring.

9. (Currently Amended) The surgical device of claim 1, wherein said sealing means is an external proximal valve mounted adjacent to said proximal ring.

10. (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 1, wherein said sealing means is an internal distal valve.

11. (Previously Presented) A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type using an inflated cavity accessible to a surgeon through an access port, defined by the device, surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device comprising:

body cavity engagement means for insertion into the incision to locate the device in position, said body cavity engagement means including a distal ring;

fixing means for attaching the device to a patient's skin, said fixing means including a proximal ring;

a sleeve connected between the body cavity engagement means and the fixing means, said sleeve having an adjustable length that shortens to cause said sleeve to apply outward pressure against the patient's body sufficient to retract the incision to define the access port; and

one of an external proximal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said proximal ring and an internal distal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said distal ring, to prevent substantial leakage of gas from the body cavity on inflation when in an operative

position and formed to mold about a substantial portion of a surgeon's hand or surgical instrument on insertion in an operating position.

12. (Previously Presented) A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type using an inflated cavity accessible to a surgeon through an access port, defined by the device, surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device comprising:

body cavity engagement means for insertion into the incision to locate the device in position, said body cavity engagement means including a distal ring;

fixing means for attaching the device to a patient's skin, said fixing means including a proximal ring;

a sleeve connected between the body cavity engagement means and the fixing means, said sleeve having a length;

wherein said proximal ring includes an adjustment means for adjusting the length of said sleeve to cause said sleeve to apply outward pressure against the patient's body sufficient to retract sides of the incision; and

one of an external proximal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said proximal ring and an internal distal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said distal ring, to prevent substantial leakage of gas from the body cavity on inflation when in an operative position and formed to mold about a substantial portion of a surgeon's hand or surgical instrument on insertion in an operating position.

13. (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 1, wherein said sealing means is a self-sealing valve formed of elasticized filaments.

14. (Currently Amended) The surgical device of claim 11, wherein said ~~sealing means one of an external proximal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said proximal ring and an internal distal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said distal ring~~ is a self-sealing valve formed of elasticized filaments.

15. (Currently Amended) The surgical device of claim 12, wherein said ~~sealing means one of an external proximal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said~~

proximal ring and an internal distal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said distal ring
is a self-sealing valve formed of elasticized filaments.

16. (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 1, wherein said sealing means is a self-sealing spring valve including a tensioned member mounted on the sleeve.

17. (Currently Amended) The surgical device of claim 11, wherein said ~~sealing means one of an external proximal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said proximal ring and an internal distal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said distal ring~~ is a self-sealing spring valve including a tensioned member mounted on the sleeve.

18. (Currently Amended) The surgical device of claim 12, wherein said ~~sealing means one of an external proximal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said proximal ring and an internal distal sealing valve mounted adjacent to said distal ring~~ is a self-sealing spring valve including a tensioned member mounted on the sleeve.